

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ISO-00 INT-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3785

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ALSO PASS U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VA.

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH ENRG VE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED COOPERATION ON URANIUM ASSESSMENT

REF: (A) CARACAS 8436 (B) STATE 224770 (C) STATE 224891

1. EMBASSY PETROLEUM OFFICER SPOKE TO DR. HENRIQUE LAVIE, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MINES AND GEOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES ON SEPT. 6. LAVIE SAID THAT DR. PASQUALI OF CONAN WAS PRESENTLY IN THE DENVER AREA ON LEAVE AND WOULD BE MEETING WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OFFICIALS THERE THE WEEK OF SEPT. 11 TO 15. TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION ON URANIUM ASSESSMENT. HE SAID IT WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED THAT HE, LAVIE, WOULD JOIN PASQUALI FOR MEETINGS WITH USGS IN RESTON THE FOLLOWING WEEK, BUT THAT HE WAS NOW UNCERTAIN WHEN HE WOULD BE TRAVELING TO THE U.S.

2. LAVIE EXPLAINED THAT PASQUALI HAD WITH HIM A DRAFT OF THE PROPOSED BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH USGS WHICH WAS SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED LAST FALL, I.E. A
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN USGS AND THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MINES AND GEOLOGY, SETTING FORTH A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE BILATERAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. IT HAD BEEN LAVIE'S INTENT TO SIGN SUCH AN AGREEMENT WHILE IN RESTON THE WEEK OF SEPT. 18. ONCE THIS GENERAL MOU IS SIGNED, HE SAID THE DETAILS OF SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE PROJECTS COULD BE WORKED OUT QUICKLY BY THE

EXPERTS INVOLVED, E.G. AN AGREEMENT ON URANIUM ASSESSMENT INVOLVING PASQUALI OF CONAN AND HIS USGS COUNTERPARTS. NOW, HOWEVER, LAVIE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN FURTHER CLEARANCES FOR THE MOU WITHIN THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT, AND APPARENTLY HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS ON THIS UNTIL MINISTER HERNANDEZ RETURNS IN MID-SEPTEMBER. AS A RESULT HE IS NOW UNCERTAIN WHEN HE WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH THE USGS IN RESTON.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE AUGUST 4 LETTER AND THE COMMERCIAL CABLE TO THE MINISTER FROM THE USGS, LAVIE HESITATED, EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM LEAVE AND THAT IN HIS ABSENCE THIS HAD BEEN HANDLED BY ANOTHER DIRECTOR GENERAL, ULISES RAMIREZ, WHO IS NOW OUT OF THE COUNTRY. LAVIE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS A LETTER, BUT HAD NOT YET SEEN IT, AND WOULD NOT KNOW THE DETAILS UNTIL HE COULD OBTAIN RAMIREZ'S FILES WHICH HE HOPED TO DO SOON.

4. WE EXPECT TO MEET WITH LAVIE NEXT WEEK AND HOPE THEN TO GET A BETTER PICTURE OF WHERE THIS MOU STANDS WITHIN THE GOV. WE UNDERSTAND FROM EARLIER CORRESPONDENCE WITH USGS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE HAS BEEN OBTAINED FOR A STANDARDIZED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FORMAT WHICH DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM THAT PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO LAVIE IN OCTOBER 1977. WE WOULD
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APPRECIATE A COPY OF THIS STANDARDIZED FORMAT, BOTH FOR USE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. LAVIE AND ALSO IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSIONS OF THE OTHER TWO MOUS WHICH USGS IS CONSIDERING ENTERING INTO WITH THE VENEZUELAN SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION (FUNVISIS) AND THE VENEZUELAN TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM (INTEVEP). WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING A COPY OF THE AUGUST 4 LETTER.
CROWLEY

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